

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/023,732

Examiner

Thoi V. Duong

Applicant(s)

SLADEN, PETER

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed April 17, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) ~~is~~are 7-15 and 17-29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Amendment filed April 17, 2006.

Accordingly, claim 24 was amended, and claims 1-6 and 16 were cancelled.

Currently, claims 7-15 and 17-29 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 7-15 and 17-29 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record fairly suggests or shows all of the limitations as claimed. Specifically,

Re claims 7 and 13, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, a window disposed adjacent the display, and through which the display is viewable, wherein an outer surface of the window facing the display is provided with an incorporated grating for distributing light from the illumination source in the direction of the display without the light passing through the window.

Re claim 17, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, a window having an outer surface disposed adjacent the display without an intervening layer of material therebetween, and positioned to define a gap between the outer surface and the display, the display being viewable through the window, wherein the outer surface of the window faces the display and is provided with an incorporated grating for distributing light from the illumination source, wherein when light is shone directly into the gap the grating distributes the light in the direction of the display without the light passing through the intervening layer of material.

Re claim 24, none of the prior art of record discloses, in combination with other limitations as claimed, a unitary display window having a first outer surface of the window is for exposure to a user, and a second outer surface of the window is for placement adjacent the display, the second outer surface being provided with an incorporated grating to distribute light from an associated external source of illumination in the direction of the display without light passing through the window.

The most relevant reference, USPN 6,742,907 B2 to Funamoto et al. (Funamoto), fails to disclose or suggest a window provided with an outer surface having an incorporated grating facing a display without an intervening layer of material therebetween for distributing light from an illumination source in the direction of the display without the light passing through the window or the intervening layer of material. Funamoto also fails to disclose or suggest that light may be shone directly into a gap between the outer surface of the display window and the display with the grating on the outer surface of the window being configured to distribute the light in the direction of the display without the light passing through an intervening layer of the material. As shown in Figs. 30A and 30B, Funamoto discloses a window 11 disposed adjacent the display 6, and through which the display is viewable, wherein an outer surface of the window facing the display is provided with an incorporated grating 12 for distributing light 19b from the illumination source 2 in the direction of the display; however, the light 19b from the illumination source 2 passes through the window 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2292. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at (571) 272-1787.

Thoi Duong



05/03/2006


ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER